

ABSTRACT

The present invention efficiently directs the flow of print jobs and efficiently controls the spooling and printing of print jobs. The multiplexer system analyzes jobs received from client systems through print channels. The multiplexer

- 5 determines the attributes of the incoming job and the attributes associated with the print channel. If the attributes of the print job and the attributes of the print channel dictate an output path (either MUST PRINT or MUST SPOOL), then the multiplexer examines the state of the selected path. If the designated output path (printer or spooler ) is busy, then the multiplexer decision is to signal a Stop\_Flow to the print
- 10 channel . The print channel is signaled to Start\_Flow at a later time, when the output path becomes available. If the attributes of the print job and the attributes of the print channel do not dictate an output path, then the multiplexer examines a User Output Selection setting to control spooling and printing of print jobs.